

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W

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R 090527Z APR 75 ZFD

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9428

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0922

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT BM

SUBJ: PRESIDENT NE WIN TOURS NORTHEAST

REF: RANGOON 0876 (WEEKA #12)

1. PRESS HAS NOW CONFIRMED AFTER THE FACT NE WIN'S VISIT TO NORTH EAST BURMA MARCH 29-APRIL 4 (REFTEL) AND OFFERED SOME DETAILS ON THE TOUR. ACCOMPANIED BY THREE COUNCIL OF STATE MEMBERS, THE DEFENSE MINISTER, THE MINISTER AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES, INTELLIGENCE CHIEF COL. TIN OO AND OTHER MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS, THE PRESIDENT VISITED LASHIO, NAMTU, KENG TUNG, MONG-YAWNG, MONG HSAT, TACHILEK AND TAUNG GYI, TRAVELING BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT OR HELICOPTER. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE VISIT TO NAMTU, WHERE THE PARTY WAS BRIEFED ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE BAWDWIN MINES, AND SOME MEETINGS WITH LOCAL PEOPLE'S COUNCILS AND PARTY OFFICIALS, THE MAJOR PART OF THE TRIP APPEARED TO BE DEVOTED TO BRIEFINGS BY MILITARY COMMANDS AND TOURS OF MILITARY FACILITIES.

2. COMMENT: THE VISIT WAS PROBABLY PROMPTED BY NE WIN'S INTEREST IN MAINTAINING HIS POSITION WITHIN HIS MAJOR POWER BASE, THE BURMA ARMY. IT ALSO SERVED TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE BCP AND OTHER INSURGENTS IN THE NORTHEAST THAT HE CAN TRAVEL IN THE REGION WITH IMPUNITY (ALBEIT BY AIR). THIS IS HIS SECOND TRIP TO PROVINCIAL BURMA IN RECENT MONTHS FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO MERGUI AND PEARL ISLAND IN LATE JANUARY. COMBINED WITH HIS RECENT WELL PUBLICIZED FORAYS WITHIN THE CAPITAL TO SUCH AFFAIRS AS THE JOURNALISM

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EXHIBIT AND THE USIS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL BOOK DISPLAY, IT

WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT A DELIBERATE EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO
OFFSET THE IMAGE OF SELF-IMPOSED ISOLATION THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED
THE NE WIN PRESIDENCY IN RECENT YEARS.
OSBORN

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Message Attributes

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